

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.
JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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THE DAILY HERALD, published every day in the
year. Four cents per copy. Annual subscription
price \$12.

Volume XXXVII.....No. 46

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ST. JAMES THEATRE, Twenty-eighth street and Broad-
way.—MARRIAGE.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—
THE NEW DRAMA OF DIVORCE.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—THE BALLET FAN-
TASIES OF HENRY DUPRE.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third st., corner Sixth av.—
JULIUS CESAR.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of 34th and 35th sts.—
EUROPEAN HYPNOTIC THEATRE. Malice a12

WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner 30th st.—Perform-
ances afternoon and evening.—DAILING.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street.—
THE VETERAN.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and
Houston sts.—BLACK CROOK.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—BOY DETECTIVE—OUT
ON THE LOOSE.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.—
THE DUKER'S MOTO.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway.—COMIC VOCA-
LS, NEGRO ACTS, &c.—DIVORCE.

UNION SQUARE THEATRE, Fourteenth st., and Broad-
way.—NEGRO ACTS.—BERLINQUE, RAILLET, &c.

THIRTY-FOURTH STREET THEATRE, near Third av.—
VALENTINE ENTERTAINMENT.

TOMY PASTORS OPERA HOUSE, No. 201 Bowery.—
NEGRO ENTERTAINMENT, BERLINQUE, &c.

BRYANT'S NEW OPERA HOUSE, 251 st., between 6th
and 7th avs.—BRYANT'S MINSTRELS.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTREL HALL, 585 Broadway.—
THE SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.

PAVILION, No. 828 Broadway.—THE VIENNA LADY OR-
CHESTRA.

NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street.—HORSES IN
THE RING, ACROBATS, &c.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 518 Broadway.—
SCIENCE AND ART.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 745 Broadway.—
SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Thursday, February 15, 1872.

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The Paralysis of Reform—The Duty of the Legislature.

Plainly something more must be done in the
way of Reform! The Legislature, which went
to Albany with the noise of a triumphant
army, has come to a halt. The clamors for
reform have died into echoes. We have
uneasy rumors from the capital. The old
lobby is dead, but its spirit remains, and the
ghosts of Tweed and Sweeney and Connolly
stalk through the corridors of the Capitol.
The necessities of good municipal govern-
ment are forgotten in the ambitions of Fenton
and the yearnings of Conkling. Instead of a
resolute, united pull for reform and good
government, we have nothing but intrigues
affecting the canvass for the Presidency, and
petty inquiries about printing and postage
stamps.

This will never do. The great uprising of
the people for reform will come to nothing if
the popular voice fails to find expression at
Albany. In fact, our whole Reform business
has been a disheartening experiment. Thus
we had what were called the reform
municipal governments, with a superior
Board of Aldermen and an unimpeach-
able company of Councilmen. Has any good
come from their deliberations? Is New York
any better now than it was under Tweed?
Mr. Hall has made certain commendable ap-
pointments, has given a republican the control
of the greatest department in our municipality,
and has nominated to be Park Commissioners
our unexceptionable citizens. And yet all the
reformers have done to Mr. Hall has been to
indict him. Our reform Aldermen began
their work by an intrigue, and already some
of the best men are contemplating retirement.
Instead of one definite, acceptable charter,
embracing the sound principles expressed in
the HERALD and welcomed by public opinion,
we have half a dozen charters eagerly
pressed at Albany by retailers of the old lob-
bies, and old gentlemen in spectacles, much
more concerned about the tavern fare than
wise legislation. Will any good come from
these enterprises? Will any good come
especially from the communist
charter of that body of well-meaning, help-
less men called "The Committee of Seventy"?
There is an Arabian custom which expresses
the situation. When the turban or burnous
of the Arab is infected with insects and be-
comes uncomfortable he takes it off and places
it on the ground. In time a colony of differ-
ent insects infest the garment, drive the
possessors off, and remain in possession.
Thus far one swarm of vermin has only driven
another from our municipal garments. This
certainly is not reform.

If we had patriotic men in Albany, if the
representatives really spoke for the people,
there would be no difficulty in solving this
problem. Nothing could be more simple.
The best government is free from any com-
plications. We do not want a problem in
algebra, or a law based upon the principles of
spherical astronomy, or a mysterious treatise
on metaphysics, saying one thing and mean-
ing another. We have had too much occult
legislation, too many legal tricks, more than
enough of mountebank charlatanry. The
simplest laws on record are the Ten Com-
mandments, and they are about the only laws
now established among men which do not need
notes and commentaries and learned decisions
to reveal their meaning. If this sacred and
venerable example is not apt we shall
be content with the Constitution of the United
States. There is no better code of human laws.
It has stood war and peace and the stress of
many years, and is to-day as sound as
when it was adopted. Cannot we do as well
by the charter? We care nothing for the
details of the document. When a charter
says too much it means too little. We want
certain clear, defined principles. We need a
head to the municipality. Instead of ten gov-
ernments by which we have been afflicted and
harried, and through the meshes of which
corruption has poured its polluting flood, let
us have one charter, expressing cer-
tain general laws and constituting one
symmetrical, responsible, respected govern-
ment. Let there be one chief magistrate
who will hold the heads of departments
to a rigid accountability, and answer
for his well or ill doing to the
people. Let there be municipal bodies of
wise men representing the capital and the
labor of the city. Let the Mayor have a term
as long as that of the President, and to be
removed from the temptation of an undue use
of his patronage by being ineligible for re-
election. Let us have an end of this chaotic
aggregation of villages and towns on the
banks of the North and East rivers, and one
compact, consolidated metropolis worthy to
rank with London and Paris. New York is a
misdemeanor. We have not a city, but the frag-
ment of a city.

As we have said again and again, reform
does not mean to break down, but to build up.
Nothing hurts a city like New York so much
as experimenting with its interests and
authority. Every new charter scheme is only
a confession of weakness and debility. If we
are to make a charter to-day which must be
pulled down to-morrow; if we are simply to
legislate one class of politicians into office
only to legislate another class into retirement;
if New York is to be pulled to pieces by every
Assembly that meets in Albany, merely to suit
the exigencies of a political campaign or the
self-seeking of party leaders; if the mistakes
of the Tammany charter are to be supple-
mented by the mistakes of an anti-Tammany
charter; if the men who have robbed the city
of twenty millions are to be succeeded by men
who will take forty millions, the better
for all will it be when the whole
"scheme of reform" is abandoned. The old
bandits are better than the new ones, for
they have stolen enough to give us a reason-
able assurance that they are satisfied. A robber
with a million in his pocket will have more
inducements to lead an honest life than the
raw thief setting out on his career. He does
not want plunder but immunity, and no half-
way charter will be as welcome or efficient
as the old one. The charters proposed are
half-way charters. They are meant for a party
and not for the city. Already we hear the
disgraceful story that the friends of Mr.
Fenton, for instance, are willing to compro-
mise and support Grant, provided what is
called a Board of Commerce is created here.
With no present power, and no standing

with General Grant and no control over the
miserable patronage of the Custom House,
they will come into line and support the party
if the city is turned over to them. Now much
as we value the necessity of supporting Grant
New York has no concern with the experi-
ment. She wants a government "of the peo-
ple—for the people and by the people," and
any corrupt combination of this kind will be
as villainous as any of the charters or tax
levies of the Ring.

Having made the charter, the next duty
of these Albany reformers is to investigate
the Erie ring. The time has come when this
Erie ring, with its shameful dishonesty and
rapacity, must be overthrown. It is not
too much to say that as a nation we have
lost more money by the timidity of our legisla-
tors in dealing with Erie than we could pos-
sibly hope to gain from the payment by
England of our consequential damages. No
American can take a bond or security into a
foreign market without feeling the iniquities
of Erie. The curse of Erie rests upon every
American enterprise, no matter how worthy.
Thinking men abroad rightly say that if one
railway can pursue the course of Erie other
railways can be manipulated in the same way.
To a great extent Erie rested upon Tam-
many. Now that Tammany has fallen why
should Erie live?

The moral effect of the great victory at the
polls last November will be lost if we are to
have an atrophy of legislation at Albany. If
the people cannot express their will at the
polls in any manner, no matter how emphatic,
without an assurance that it will be re-
spected, then of a surety we have no longer
a representative government. The resignation
of poor Terwilliger, because he accepted his
time-honored dividend out of the printing
business, the solemn inquiry into the bank
accounts of Senator Wood, to see whether he
really borrowed money from Tweed, the busy
inquiries into the abstraction of postage
stamps from the Treasury, may interest a
few party politicians eager for place, but
make no impression upon the country. This
is not reform. It can scarcely be called a
pretext for reform, and is really an insult
to that mighty, impatient people who mean
to have a government for New York worthy
of the metropolis, and an overthrow of a Ring
of desperate railroad jobbers, who have
brought disgrace upon the American name,
stifled credit, made our finances uncertain
in foreign markets, and interfered with the
generous and natural growth of business
between the two worlds.

The people have destroyed Tammany. What
has the Legislature done? Really nothing but
investigate Terwilliger. Three things these
members must do—overthrow Erie, purify the
Bench by punishing the unworthy members,
and give us a fair, honest, wise and compre-
hensive charter. Failing in these things this
Legislature, elected with so many hopes and
prayers, will be doomed to an infamy which
has no parallel in the checkered history of
Albany legislation.

The Issue Between the People and the Erie Ring.

While the Erie Railroad jobbers—the word
might as fitly be written with an "s"—with
that magnificent disregard of decency for
which they have become notorious, have been
steadily pursuing for the last six weeks their
accustomed efforts to corrupt the Senate and
Assembly of the State, and to buy up votes
like so much merchandise, they have not
neglected other resorts to defeat legislation
adverse to their interests by the so-called Re-
form Legislature this session. One of their
tricks is to raise an outcry against foreign
control of the road, and upon this theme they
have been harping every day. Another is, to
admit that the passage of the Classification
act by bribery and corruption was reprehensi-
ble, but to lay the blame of that work on the
murdered Fisk, and to plausibly urge that,
after all, the Classification act is a good law,
inasmuch as it insures the presence of ex-
perienced men at all times on a board of
directors. Yet another is to endeavor to be-
fog and obstruct legislation by causing all
sorts of bills to be introduced under the specious
mask of reform, but in reality designed to
divert public attention from the true issue and
to afford timid members an opportunity of
shrinking the responsibility of a direct vote in
favor of the "Ring" they were elected to destroy.

Now, the issue between the people and the
Ring is simply direct and easily understood.
The lawyers who are now pleading so elo-
quently before the Legislative committee for
the rights of corporations and against the arbi-
trary powers alleged to be sought by the At-
torney General of the State cannot change
that issue or conceal it from public view by
any amount of legal dust they may raise. In-
deed, it appears to be pretty well understood
that their long speeches are only made for the
purpose of gaining time, so that the rush of
business at the close of the session may enable
the Legislature the more easily to do the bid-
ding of the Ring and defeat all reform meas-
ures. The leaders of the Ring managed long
ago, by the aid of bribed Legislatures and
friendly Courts and a reckless defiance of
law, to obtain possession of the property
of the Erie Railroad, in opposition to the
wishes of a large majority of the stock-
holders. They would have failed in retaining
it until this time, however, but for the passage
of the Classification law, which tied the hands
of the stockholders and gave the Ring a cer-
tain lease of power for at least five years.
This special bill was passed by bribing and
corrupting members. It is notorious that the
men who voted for it, except such as were in
some manner or another bound to the exist-
ing direction, were almost all paid for their
votes. It is now proposed by Senator O'Brien
to repeal the Classification act, thus corruptly
and unconstitutionally passed, and to give to
the stockholders of the Erie Railway the privi-
lege to elect a Board of Directors at an early
date. Nothing in this bill conflicts with the
rights of any bona fide stockholder. It does not
discriminate against any of the present directors
or against any of their friends and supporters
who may own stock in the road. It gives a
vote to every man entitled to one, and pro-
vides in every way for a fair election. It is,
therefore, not an anti-Ring bill, provided the
gentlemen who constitute the "Ring" actually
represent a majority of the stock-
holders of the corporation. If they do not,
then they should not claim the right to man-
age its affairs and to hold possession of its

property. By opposing a fair election they
place themselves in the position of endeavor-
ing to hold on by force to property belong-
ing to other men. It is clear that this bill ought
to pass, and we learn from our Albany corre-
spondence that Senator O'Brien is resolved to
bring the slippery Senate to a record on the
question. That is right. Let us see how
many members of a reform republican Legisla-
ture will venture to vote against a law which
only seeks to give the stockholders of this
corporation the right to control their own
property. Let us know how effectively the
executive successor of Colonel Fisk has
worked upon the consciences and the financial
needs of the members of the present Legisla-
ture.

Congress Yesterday—How the French Were Supplied with Arms—Is It a Blank Cartridge or Is It a Bombshell?

The resolution which Mr. Sumner offered
in the Senate some days ago, to institute an
inquiry into the means by which the French
were supplied with arms from this country
during their late war with Germany, came up
yesterday for consideration, and elicited quite
a lively discussion. The friends of the ad-
ministration—notably Messrs. Conkling, Mor-
ton and Carpenter—had no hesitation in recog-
nizing the resolution as an attack upon the
President and Secretary of War, and extended
an invitation to Sumner to "lay on." The
Massachusetts Senator, of course, disclaimed
any other motive than that of a high sense of
public duty, and expressed great re-
luctance at having that duty imposed
upon him. Mr. Sherman attempted to divert
the Senate into a more useful branch of busi-
ness than that of entering on a political de-
bate, and rebuked the majority for being so
readily excited by a waving of the red flag
in the hands of their adversaries. He subse-
quently alluded directly to Sumner as one of
the adversaries, and inquired whether there
could be any motive in bringing up the resolu-
tion except to provoke a political discussion?
Morton and Carpenter took rather conflicting
views of the effect and character of the resolu-
tion, the former describing it as a "blank
cartridge," which he wished to have exploded
at once, and the latter recognizing it as a
"bombshell," intended to blow General Grant
and his friends out of water—we suppose he
meant hot water. Sumner's colleague, Mr.
Wilson, favored the fullest and promptest
investigation of the subject, and did not
fear that the result would be injurious to
the administration even, although mistakes
might have been committed. The people,
in his opinion, were magnanimous enough
to forgive any such mistakes. In a subse-
quent part of the debate he stated in detail
the facts so far as the War Department
was connected with them. That Department
had sold, between 1865 and 1871, arms to the
amount of over fifteen million dollars,
which had all been paid into the Treasury,
and had never sold a dollar's worth to the
French government or to any one known to be
its agents. We fail to see how, with this
state of facts, Mr. Sumner can expect to make
any political capital out of his resolution or of
the investigation which he is aiming at. No
decision of the question had been arrived at
when the Senate adjourned.

In the House the order of the day—coming
after several propositions for erecting govern-
ment buildings at Indianapolis, Hartford, Cin-
cinnati and Quincy—was the Naval Approp-
riation bill. A good deal of discussion of no
general interest took place upon it in Com-
mittee of the Whole, and amendments were
adopted prohibiting political influences in the
employment or dismissal of mechanics and
laborers in the government navy yards, and
leaving their selection with the several heads
of the various mechanical departments without
interference from officers of the navy.

The bill to remove all import duties from
tea and coffee was reported in the House from
the Committee of Ways and Means, and re-
ferred to the Committee of the Whole on the
State of the Union. Mr. Finkelnburg, who
reported it, stating that a majority of the Com-
mittee of Ways and Means, including him-
self, was opposed to it. The debate upon it
will open up the whole tariff question.

The Mardi Gras Festivals at New Orleans.

The Mardi Gras festivities of Tuesday
last in New Orleans, as will be judged from
the report of them which we give to-day,
must have been, as Miss Lily Lovejoy would
express it, "perfectly splendid." Indeed,
from all the descriptions that we have had of
such festivities in Paris for many years, we
should judge that Paris itself has at last been
eclipsed in Mardi Gras by New Orleans.
Think of a great procession in these latter
days, and in this country of hard facts and
utilities, representing the "Dream of Homer,"
the living embodiment on a holiday parade of
the heroes of the Iliad and the Odyssey; and
of the gods and goddesses, with the mortal
champions on both sides of the immortal siege
of Troy! Why, it marks a new epoch in our
history as a people. It is the beginning of a
new life to us, in which this eternal delving
and driving and drudging and scheming for
money will be modified and softened and
brightened and sweetened, made merry by
charming festivals and days devoted to fun.
We have few enough of such days, God knows,
and we welcome this splendid New Orleans
festival as a sign that we are going to have
more of them. And the Grand Duke was
there, and he enjoyed the festival and the
fun with a princely relish. We dare say, too,
that next to his buffalo hunt in Nebraska, and
that Arabian Night's entertainment with Spot-
ted Tail and his Indians, the Grand Duke
will remember this New Orleans "Dream of
Homer" most vividly of all the events of his
American tour to the end of his life. Let
our young men of this city read the account
of Tuesday's day of fun in New Orleans and
see if they cannot next year get up something
that will eclipse it in New York.

THE REFORMERS, with a rush, have swept
Staten Island "from the centre all round to
the sea." The Ring is broken, reform is
victorious, and the island is to be illumined
with "the good time coming."

"EUREKA."—We have found it—the incor-
ruptible Legislature; for it has been proved
by actual investigation that the Legislature of
Wisconsin has been tried by the lobby with
bribes for jobs, and that not a member has
been corrupted. Hurrah for Wisconsin!

The Departure of the English Livingstone Expedition.

The intelligence that the English expedition
raised to search in the interior of Africa for
Dr. Livingstone has left London, the neces-
sary funds having been subscribed to defray
its expenses, gives us great pleasure; for this
expedition in the cause of humanity and
science is in good season to do great things.
So much for the stimulating example of the
NEW YORK HERALD, in the expedition of our
experienced, intelligent and courageous
Oriental traveller, Mr. Stanley, in search of
the long-missing African explorer. It was
this example which spurred up the national
and professional pride of the members of the
London Royal Geographical Society, and other
public spirited Englishmen co-operating with
this society, to the resolution of the expedition
on their part which has just sailed for Zanzibar.
Otherwise, we apprehend, the Royal
Geographical Society would have followed the
example of Her Majesty's government in leav-
ing Dr. Livingstone, with all the chances
against him, among the wild tribes of Africa's
equatorial lake basin to shift for himself.
However, with the courteous Sancho Panza,
let us be thankful for what has been given us,
"nor look the gift horse in the mouth."

We are deeply gratified with the departure
of this English expedition, because we fear
that if Mr. Stanley is still alive he may be
among those treacherous African savages,
entangled as Livingstone has been, in diffi-
culties from which he cannot extricate him-
self. We do not give him up; for we know,
from similar Arab reports in reference to both
Dr. Livingstone and Sir Samuel Baker, that
these imaginative Arabs cannot be classed
with our "reliable contraband." If, there-
fore, this English expedition, which goes
directly by steamer to Zanzibar, via the Suez
Canal, shall be in time, in leaving Zanzibar,
to cross the swampy district between the
coast and Unyanyembe before those equato-
rial spring rains come on (which we think can
and will be done) we may expect, a few
months hence, some definite information in
reference to our explorer, Mr. Stanley, and
his followers. Thus the chances for the
recovery, if still alive, of both Stanley and
Livingstone are greatly increased; for, with
the intimate knowledge of Eastern Equatorial
Africa possessed by Dr. Kirk, and with all
the facilities which will be provided for this
London expedition by the English Consulate
at Zanzibar, we suppose it will be amply
equipped to push its way, without a serious
detention, through to Ujiji, on Lake Tan-
ganyika.

And then, what then? Why, then we hope
that the expedition will return, not only with
Stanley and Livingstone, but with a vast
amount of most valuable and interesting in-
formation from that wonderful equatorial lake
basin of Africa. It is settled by the actual
observations of Speke, Grant and Burton that
the great lake Victoria Nyanza is one of the
fountain-heads of the Nile; Sir Samuel and
Lady Baker have seen for themselves that the
stream from another great lake which is their
discovery, the Albert Nyanza, is a head stream
of the Nile. Dr. Livingstone supposes that
another great lake south, the Tanganyika,
flows into the Albert, which, if true, lengthens
the great river some six or seven hundred
miles. But so far we know very little of the
size of these lakes or of the network of the
great mountain system around them. There
may be many lakes where only two or three
are supposed to exist; and there may be, as
reported to Stanley, another great lake west
of Tanganyika. Most of these unsettled ques-
tions, we hope, will be solved with the success
of this English expedition in recovering the
lost explorers, or at least in recovering the
records of their adventures and discoveries.

As for the HERALD expedition up the Nile
in search of Sir Samuel Baker, we have no
fears concerning it, as it is under the special
protection of the enlightened and liberal Khed-
ive of Egypt.

THE REVOLUTION IN MEXICO has assumed
overwhelming proportions, and now bids fair
to obtain the mastery over the government of
Juarez. Our special despatch from Matamoros
reports more fighting. The important city of
San Luis is closely besieged and hourly
expected to fall into the hands of the revo-
lutionists. A battle near Puebla is
reported to have taken place between Gen-
eral Diaz, the head of the revolution, and
General Rocha, the foremost commander on
the side of Juarez. The government forces
were completely routed, and the famous city
of Puebla is now threatened by Diaz. This
news leads to the supposition that the days
of Juarez's Presidency are numbered. Suppose
the government of Juarez overthrown, what
then? By the light of past experience of
Mexican affairs, we should predict another
government of short-lived existence, another
revolution headed by some discontented gen-
eral, more pronouncements, more fighting,
more chaos, and so on until the end of the
chapter.

ANOTHER FATAL RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—
According to our despatch from Susquehanna
last night a siding engine, kept near Owego to
assist heavy laden trains up the grade there,
exploded with great violence, the engine being
lifted off the rails and falling down an embank-
ment eighty feet high. One man was in-
stantly killed, and the engineer and driver
and four other men, in a caboose at the rear
of a train they were assisting, were seri-
ously injured. We suppose the officials of
the Erie Railroad will make an "investiga-
tion," the Coroner will render a